1st November 1962]

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, the Hon. Minister said that if the near relatives were without any income, a pension was granted. Will the Government consider the case of such persons as are discarded by their sons or daughters who are earning members?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir. If there are earning members, they are not considered. Then, Sir, I may add that a person will be deemed to be a destitute if the wife has attained the age of 55 years.

Metric weights

* 210 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that vegetable vendors and others engaged in petty trades in Kotwal Bazaar, Madras, still continue to use viss weights instead of kilogram weights; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce the use of kilogram weights ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) & (b) The Government have already taken steps by publicity, propaganda, persuasion and surprise inspections to enforce the use of metric weights. The enforcement staff has been seizing the old weights wherever found in use. As a result of these steps, it is reported that the transactions are now done by weighment with new metric weights.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Have any prosecutions been made in this connection ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The information is not with me now, Sir.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact, Sir, that kilogram weight is passed off as viss by vegetable vendors when they deal with illiterate people ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have not received any such complaints, Sir. If the hon. Member is aware of such practices, he might pass on the information to the Government and it will be looked into.

Sand dunes

* 211 Q.—SRI T. DORAIRAJ : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of wet lands and river-bed lands on the banks of the Cauveri in Srirangam firka affected by sand dunes during 1961 floods;

(b) whether any compensation was paid to those lands; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such damages to the river-bed lands in Srirangam firka?